



Audubon SHARON

**EDUCATION PROGRAM
GUIDE
GRADES K-6**



Photo by James Ginnetty

Opening New Eyes to Nature

HOW TO REGISTER

EDUCATION PROGRAM GUIDE

About the Sharon Audubon Center and its Programs

The Sharon Audubon Center is the educational component of Audubon Sharon. Located on Route 4 in Sharon, CT, it is the local resource for natural science information and instruction. Experienced educators can assist teachers in the planning and teaching of science units in a hands-on, inquiry-based format.

The natural science programs of Audubon Sharon have been carefully structured to satisfy many of the Connecticut Science Standards for grades K-8. Scientific numeracy and inquiry are integrated into many of the programs through hands-on lessons. Programs can either be held at the 1200-acre sanctuary, taking advantage of the varied habitats: ponds, streams, forests and fields, or they can be conducted on the school grounds or in the classroom.

The most effective programs consist of multiple meetings with the same children so a complete unit can be thoroughly taught. This is why our multiple-visit programs, such as the Soils and Rocks Rock! programs were created. Other programs can be combined to create multiple meetings as well.

All of Audubon Sharon's current education programs are described on the pages of this brochure. Each has been carefully matched to specific Science Content Standards for grades K-6, however, many programs can be adapted for grade levels other than those listed. Audubon Sharon's goal is to provide programming to teachers that meets their classroom needs as well as our mission to increase students' affinity for nature. This brochure is just a guide to some of the services available. Please contact us at (860) 364-0520 if you have any questions about how our programs can most effectively meet your educational needs.



How to Register for Program

To register your class for programs, contact Wendy Miller, Education Program Manager, preferably by phone at (860) 364-0520 x21, Monday through Friday, 8am-3:30pm or [wmiller@audubon.org](mailto:wmilleraudubon.org). Upon scheduling a program with the Center, you will receive a confirmation notice in the mail. Please read the instructions thoroughly to ensure that you and your students have an enjoyable visit or outreach program. Early program registration ensures a more diverse set of choices.

- Because many of our programs are hands-on and interactive, we encourage booking for individual classrooms rather than large groups.
- If multiple programs are booked on the same day, \$25 will be deducted from each additional program.
- There is no charge for classroom teachers and student aides. One adult chaperone per ten students is admitted for free. We ask the regular program fee be paid for each additional chaperone for onsite programs.
- At this time, we have pre and post-material packets available for the Maple Sugaring, Insect Investigations and Soils programs.
- Mileage fee of \$.555/mile, round-trip applies for all outreach programs. Mileage fee may fluctuate.



We look forward to working with you!

LIVE ANIMAL PROGRAMS

EDUCATION PROGRAM GUIDE

BIRDS OF PREY

Content Standards K.2 & 3.2: Heredity and Evolution , 1.2 & 5.2: Structure & Function, 4.2: Matter and Energy in Ecosystems

When: Any time of the year

Where: Onsite or Offsite

Time: 1 hour

Cost: Onsite: \$5/student, \$75 minimum

Outreach: \$250 plus mileage

Variations to the Birds of Prey Program: “Hawk & Owl,” “Birds of the Night,” “Fabulous Falcons,” or “Daytime Hunters”

Students learn about bird biology, conservation, ecology and adaptations for survival through the use of various live birds of prey and various bird related props. These programs are good for small groups or large assembly programs.

REPTILES

Content Standards K.2 & 3.2: Heredity and Evolution, 1.2 & 5.2: Structure & Function, 4.2: Matter and Energy in Ecosystems

When: Any time of the year

Where: Onsite or Outreach

Time: 1 hour

Cost: Onsite: \$5/student, \$75 minimum

Outreach: \$200 plus mileage

Students learn about the biology, ecology and the amazing diversity of reptiles through the use of live snakes and turtles during this hands-on program. Many of the misunderstandings surrounding reptiles will also be addressed during this program.

ANIMAL MENAGERIE

Content Standards K.2 & 3.2: Heredity and Evolution, 1.2 & 5.2: Structure & Function

When: Any time of the year

Where: Onsite or Outreach

Time: 1 hour

Cost: Onsite: \$5/student, \$75 minimum

Outreach: \$200 plus mileage

Animal life in its diversity is astounding. Students will appreciate this through a program that includes live birds, reptiles, insects and related props. Students will learn about each group of animals as they compare the biology, behavior, ecology, and the behavioral and physical adaptations of different animals.

** The Live Animal Programs can be taught at the Center or as outreach to your location*



K-2 PROGRAMS

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INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

Content Standards: 1.2, 1.3: Structure and Function

When: Early Fall or Spring

Where: Onsite

Time: 1½ hours

Cost: \$4.50 per student, \$67.50 minimum

After a brief overview of insect characteristics and adaptations for survival, students will spend time observing and collecting insects in three different habitats.

WINGS, BILLS & OTHER BIRD THRILLS

Content Standards: K.2: Heredity and Evolution, 1.2, Structure and Function

When: Any time of year

Where: Onsite or Offsite

Time: 1 hour

Cost: Onsite- \$3.00/hr/student, \$45 minimum

Offsite- \$100/hr./classroom plus mileage

The anatomy of a bird can teach students a great deal about its behavior and ecology. Through demonstrations, props, and hands-on activities, students discover the characteristics of birds and their means for survival.



WINTER ON BOG MEADOW PUPPET SHOW

Content Standard: K.3: Energy in the Earth's Systems

When: October-February

Where: Onsite or Offsite

Time: 45 minutes

Cost: \$150 per program (plus mileage for offsite programs)

Utilizing the timeless story of Maxwell the Bear's birthday party, our "Winter on Bog Meadow" is a treat for young students. Billy the Beaver, Norton the Turtle and their friends interact with students to tell how the animals of Bog Meadow Pond prepare for the onslaught of winter.

NATURE DISCOVERY WALK

Content Standards: K.1: Properties of Matter, K.2: Heredity and Evolution

When: Any time of year

Where: Onsite

Time: 1 hour

Cost: \$3.00/hr/student, \$45 minimum

Students embark on an adventure, discovering the hidden (and not so hidden) secrets of the forests, fields, stream and pond as the groups saunter along the trails of the Sharon Audubon Center. Through the use of questions, discussions and hands-on exploration, students will gain a new understanding of the natural world around them.

K-2 PROGRAMS

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SOILS- A Multiple-visit Program

Content Standard 2.3: The Changing Earth

When: Early Fall or late spring (May-June)

Where: Onsite and Offsite

Time: Two 1-hour classroom visits and one 1½-hour field trip to Audubon

Cost: Call for pricing details

This multiple-visit program focuses on the properties of soil, decomposition and how living organisms depend on soil for survival. The first two programs are held at your school in a classroom setting and the third is a field trip to the Audubon Center in search of soil critters. Students learn while having fun getting down and dirty with soil.



TREES ARE TERRIFIC

Content Standard: 2.2: Structure and Function

When: Fall or Spring

Where: Onsite

Time: 1½ hours

Cost: \$4.50 per student, \$67.50 minimum

In this program, students learn about tree anatomy, adaptations and physiology through various props. Life cycles of trees are discussed, as well as seed dispersal and the importance of trees. Makes a great addition or introduction to any plant unit!



MAPLE SUGARING

Content Standard 2.4: Science and Technology in Society, 3.1: Properties of Matter

When: During the month of March only

Where: Onsite

Time: 1½ hours

Cost: \$4.50 per student, \$67.50 minimum

A visit to the Sharon Audubon Center in March will immerse students in the time honored tradition of maple sugaring. From the Sugar Maple tree itself to the delicious finished product, students will experience the complete process. Students will have the opportunity to check and empty sap buckets, smell and view the boiling sap in the sugarhouse, watch re-enactments of Native American and Early Colonial sugaring methods and even get a taste of the sweet syrup!

3-6 PROGRAMS

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ROCKS ROCK! - A Multiple-visit Program

Content Standards: 3.3 The Changing Earth

When: Any time of year

Where: Onsite and Offsite

Time: Two 1-hour classroom visits and one 1-hour field trip to Audubon (optional)

Cost: Call for pricing details

This multiple-visit program features two programs held at your school in a classroom setting and one optional field trip to the Sharon Audubon Center. Through interactive, hands-on activities, students will learn about the properties of rocks and minerals as well as how rocks are formed. ***Please note that this program involves the students handling and eating food such as graham crackers, salt water taffy, chocolate, M&M cookies and marshmallow fluff. Please notify us of any food allergies.*

INDIANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Content Standard 3.2: Heredity and Evolution

When: Fall

Where: Onsite

Time: 2 hours

Cost: \$6.00 per student, \$90.00 minimum

Where did the Native Americans go for inspiration and all of their supplies? Why, the natural world of course! By bringing your students to the Center and out of the classroom, they will have experiences that simulate Native American life--finding materials for their shelters, food, tools and clothes. It also allows them to gain a sense of how the natives deeply valued the land and animals that lived around them, making them some of the first conservationists! This program is a natural blend of elements of both the social studies and science curricula.

POND EXPLORATION

Content Standard 3.2: Heredity and Evolution

When: Early Fall or Spring (late April-June)

Where: Onsite

Time: 1 hour

Cost: \$3.00 per student, \$45.00 minimum

In this program, students will be able to collect, observe and identify the residents of Sharon Audubon Center's Ford Pond; organisms not often seen by the average elementary school student. Through the use of props and animal mounts, students gain a better understanding of the importance of ponds and wetlands.

AQUATIC LIFE

Content Standard 3.2: Heredity and Evolution

When: Early Fall or Spring (late April-June)

Where: Onsite

Time: 2 hours

Cost: \$6.00 per student, \$90.00 minimum

An extension of the Pond Exploration program, this lesson includes a collection of critters from both the pond and stream for comparison. Using a biotic index, students will also determine the water quality of each site. Students should wear old shoes or boots for walking in the stream.



3-6 PROGRAMS

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FOOD CHAINS

Content Standard 4.2: Matter and Energy in Ecosystems

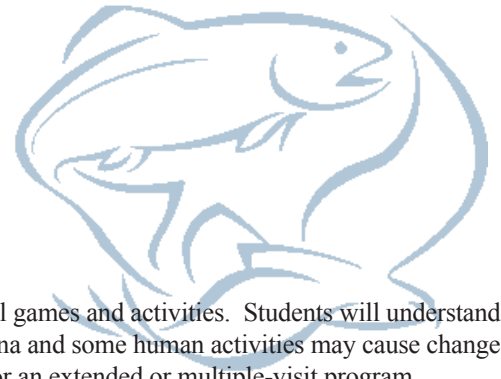
When: Any time of the year

Where: Onsite or offsite

Time: 1 hour

Cost: Onsite: \$3.00 per student, \$45.00 minimum

Offsite: \$100/hr/classroom plus mileage



This program focuses on what makes up a food chain by students participating in several games and activities. Students will understand how energy flows from the sun through plants to the animals, and how natural phenomena and some human activities may cause changes to habitats and their inhabitants. Combine this program with the Owl Pellets program for an extended or multiple-visit program.

OWL PELLETS

Content Standard 4.2: Matter and Energy in Ecosystems

When: Any time of the year

Where: Onsite or offsite

Time: 1 hour

Cost: Onsite: \$3.00 per student, \$45.00 minimum

Offsite: \$100/hr/classroom plus mileage

After a brief discussion of the mechanics of a food chain, students will dissect sterilized owl pellets and identify the skeletal remains of small animals. This hands-on activity is a great way to expose students to the concept of predator/prey, and to the differences between herbivores and carnivores. **An additional fee may be added for the purchase of pellets for large classes.*



SENSORY ADVENTURES

Content Standard 5.2: Structure and Function

When: early Fall or Spring

Where: Onsite

Time: 1½ hours

Cost: Onsite: \$4.50 per student, \$67.50 minimum

Using their five senses, students wend their way through the natural world of the Sharon Audubon Center trails. Through a series of hands-on activities along the way, students gain a deeper awareness of how animals depend on their senses for survival in the wild.

LIVING MAP

Content Standard 6.4: Science & Technology in Society

When: Any time of the year

Where: Onsite or Offsite (need a large, open space)

Time: 2 hours Cost: Onsite: \$6.00 per student, \$90.00 minimum

Offsite: \$200 plus mileage

Using a 12' x 15' canvas map of the Housatonic River Watershed, students build a three-dimensional map from the ground up. Students place props of the local natural and manmade features on the map learning map skills and science concepts. A "town meeting" concludes the program and allows for discussion of the different perspectives of land use and possible ways to improve local land conservation.

OPENING NEW EYES TO NATURE



Audubon SHARON

325 Cornwall Bridge Road
Sharon, CT 06069
www.sharon.audubon.org



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Celebrating 50 Years of Conservation!

Audubon Sharon's mission is to conserve birds, other wildlife and their habitats and to help people of all ages better understand, appreciate and care for the natural world.